



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/901,197	07/09/2001	Akihiro Yasuo	100807-16750 (FUSA 18.803	6390
26304	7590	07/07/2006	EXAMINER PHUNKULH, BOB A	
KATTEN MUCHIN ROSENMAN LLP 575 MADISON AVENUE NEW YORK, NY 10022-2585			ART UNIT 2616	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 07/07/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/901,197

Applicant(s)

YASUO ET AL.

Examiner

Bob A. Phunkulh

Art Unit

2616

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 21 April 2006.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1, 3, 6, 8, 10, 13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 2, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11 and 12 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

This communication is in response to applicant's 04/21/2006 amendment(s)/response(s) in the application of **YASUO et al.** for "**TRANSMITTING APPARATUS**" filed 07/09/2001. The amendment/response to the claims have been entered. No claims have been canceled. No claims have been added. Claims 1-13 are now pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

The following is a quotation of the second paragraph of 35 U.S.C. 112:

The specification shall conclude with one or more claims particularly pointing out and distinctly claiming the subject matter which the applicant regards as his invention.

Claims 6, 10, 8, 13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Regarding claim 6, it is not clear what it meant by "when communication has become unrescuable owing to transmission-path failure in a point-to-multipoint drop connection that transmits the same packet from one insert transmitting apparatus to a plurality of drop transmitting apparatuses, a packet-transmission halting means of said insert transmitting apparatus halts transmission of the packet to the transmission path" as cited in the claim.

Regarding claim 10, it is not clear what it meant by "when communication has become impossible owing to multiple transmission-path failures in a multipoint-to-point

insert connection that transmits packets from a plurality of insert transmitting apparatuses to one drop transmitting apparatus using the same connection ID, a packet-transmission halting means of each insert transmitting apparatus halts transmission of the packet to the transmission path” as cited in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1 and 3 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by *Goto* (US 5,737,310).

Regarding claim 1, *Goto* discloses a transmitting apparatus in a ring network (see col. 1 lines 5-10) in which a plurality of transmitting apparatuses (nodes) are connected in ring form so as to be capable of transmitting in each of upstream and downstream directions, working and protection channels are assigned to each direction and, when failure occurs in a transmission path, a transmit signal is looped back using the protection channel to effect rescue, said apparatus comprising:

rescue-impossible detection means for detecting that communication between an insert transmitting apparatus that incorporates a packet (SDH frame, see col. 3 lines 1-9) , which enters from a lower-order side, into a higher-order signal and transmits the

Art Unit: 2616

signal to a transmission path, and a drop transmitting apparatus that extracts the packet from the higher-order signal and transmits the packet to another lower-order side, can not be rescued because of transmission-path failure (the combination of switching means, higher-order path misconnection search means, means for instructing the higher-order path squelch means, see col. 1 lines 46 to col. 2 line 13); and

packet-transmission halting means for halting transmission of the packet to the transmission path when communication has become unrescuable (upon recognitions of the trouble in node 2, the switching node 1 and 3 switch and bride control is simultaneously conducted (step 108) –thus the transmission of the packet into the transmission is halted by switching other path i.e. redundant ring, see col. 6 lines 58-65).

Regarding claim 3, Goto discloses when an upstream connection and a downstream connection are set as a pair and the upstream connection becomes unrescuable, said failure reporting means sends a failure notification packet to a packet transmitting source on the lower-order side via the downstream connection of the pair (each node 1 and 3 send APS protocol as shown in figure 10B, 10C, respectively when trouble occur as node 2, see col. 5 lines 53 to col. 6 line 32)

Allowable Subject Matter

Art Unit: 2616

Claims 2, 4-5, 7, 9, 11-12 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 6, 10, 13 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten to overcome the rejection(s) under 35 U.S.C. 112, 2nd paragraph, set forth in this Office action and to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Conclusion

Any response to this action should be mailed to:

The following address mail to be delivered by the United States Postal Service (USPS) only:

Mail Stop _____
Commissioner for Patents
P. O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

or faxed to:

(703) 872-9306, (for formal communications intended for entry)

Or:

The following address mail to be delivered by other delivery services (Federal Express (Fed Ex), UPS, DHL, Laser, Action, Purolater, Hand Delivery, etc.) as follow:

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office
220 20th Street South
Customer Window, Mail Stop _____
Crystal Plaza Two, Lobby, Room 1B03
Arlington, VA 22202.

Art Unit: 2616

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to **Bob A. Phunkulh** whose telephone number is **(571) 272-3083**. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Tuesday from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. (first week of the bi-week) and Monday-Friday (for second week of the bi-week).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor **Wellington Chin**, can be reach on **(571) 272-3134**. The fax phone number for this group is **(571) 273-8300**.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).



Bob A. Phunkulh
Primary Examiner
TC 2600
Technology Division 2616
July 3, 2006

BOB PHUNKULH
PRIMARY EXAMINER